STATE OF MISSOURI

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

MISSOURI CLEAN WATER COMMISSION



MISSOURI STATE OPERATING PERMIT

In compliance with the Missouri Clean Water Law, (Chapter 644 R.S. Mo. as amended, hereinafter, the Law), and the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (Public Law 92-500, 92nd Congress) as amended,

Permit No. MO-0000311

Owner: Hercules Incorporated
Address: 1313 Market Street
Wilmington, DE 19894

Continuing Authority:

Address:

Same as above
Same as above

Facility Name: Hercules Incorporated Address: 11083 Highway D Louisiana, MO 63353

Legal Description: See Page 2 Pike County

Receiving Stream: See Page 2
First Classified Stream and ID: See Page 2
USGS Basin & Sub-watershed No.: See Page 2

is authorized to discharge from the facility described herein, in accordance with the effluent limitations and monitoring requirements as set forth herein:

FACILITY DESCRIPTION

Hercules Incorporated, MCW facility, manufactures formaldehyde, pentaerythritol, sodium formate, ureaform, nitrogen fertilizers, synthetic lubricants and plasticizers. The facility produces its own power, and process and soft water for use at the facility. The process wastewater is treated by activated sludge aerobic treatment. Sanitary waste is treated by an Imhoff anaerobic treatment unit. Filter backwash from the water treatment plant is discharged to a lagoon for settling of solids. Continued on page 2.

This permit authorizes only wastewater discharges under the Missouri Clean Water Law and the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System; it does not apply to other regulated areas. This permit may be appealed in accordance with Section 644.051.6 of the Law.

July 28, 2006 September 29, 2006

Effective Date Revised Date

MO 780-0041 (10-93)

July 27, 2011
Expiration Date

Edward Galbraith, Director of Staff, Clean Water Commission

Doyle Childers, Director, Department of Natural Resources

Executive Secretary, Clean Water Commission

Facility Description Continued

Legal responsibility for outfall #001 is shared as documented in the "Agreement for Responsibility for a Joint NPDES Permit" dated September 16, 1986. That document is a part of this permit.

Outfall 001- Discharges effluent from Outfall 006, Powerhouse Cooling blow down, Powerhouse Ash settling lagoon, and Dyno Nobel process wastewater. The average flow is 1.5 MGD.

Design flow is 3.6 MGD.

E 1/4, SW 1/4, Sec 21, T54N, R1W, Pike County

Lat 392555.0 Long +910107.0

Mississippi River (P) 07110004-190001 ID=0001

Outfall 002 – Discharges treated sanitary effluent. The Average flow is 0.041 MGD.

Design flow is 0.163 MGD.

NW 1/4, SE 1/4, Sec 20, T54N, R1W, Pike County

Lat 392610.0 Long ±910143.0

Mississippi River (P) 07110004-190001 ID=0001

Outfall 003 – discharges treated filter backwash from the water treatment plant. The Average flow is 0.404 MGD.

Design flow is 0.967 MGD.

SW 1/4, NW 1/4, Sec 28, T54N, R1W, Pike County

Lat 392527.0 Long +910118.0

Buffalo Creek (P) 07110004-110002 ID = 0014

Outfall 005 – Non-process area storm water. The Average flow is 0.016 MGD.

Design flow is 0.064 MGD.

NW 1/4, SW 1/4, Sec 28, T54N, R1W, Pike County

Lat 392523.0 Long +910133.0

Buffalo Creek (P) 07110004-110002 ID=0014

Outfall 006 – Discharges effluent from an activated sludge plant which is used to treat industrial process wastewater.

Average flow is 0.36 MGD.

Design flow is 0.564 MGD.

SE ¹/₄, SW ¹/₄, Sec 21, T54N, R1W, Pike County

Lat 392530.0 Long +910140.0

Mississippi River (P) 07110004-190001 ID=0001

A. EFFLUENT LIMITATIONS AND MONITORING REQUIREMENTS

PAGE NUMBER 3 of 9

PERMIT NUMBER MO-0000311

The permittee is authorized to discharge from outfall(s) with serial number(s) as specified in the application for this permit. The final effluent limitations shall become effective upon issuance and remain in effect until expiration of the permit. Such discharges shall be controlled, limited and monitored by the permittee as specified below:

FINAL EFFLUENT LIMITATIONS MONITORING							
4	PINAL EFFEUENT LIMITATIONS			IATIONS	REQUIREMENTS		
OUTFALL NUMBER AND		DAILY	WEEKLY	MONTHLY	MEASUREMENT	SAMPLE	
EFFLUENT PARAMETER(S)	UNITS	MAXIMUM	AVERAGE	AVERAGE	FREQUENCY	TYPE	
Outfall #001	·						
Flow	MGD	*		*	once/weekday	24 hr. estimate	
					·		
Biochemical Oxygen Demand ₅	lbs/day	*		*	once/week	24 hr. comp.	
Total Suspended Solids	lbs/day	1096		345	once/week	24 hr. comp.	
**************************************	QII.	**		ale ale		-	
pH Units	SU	**		**	Continuous		
Ammonia as N	lbs/day	*		*	once/week	24 hr. comp.	
Nitrate as N	lbs/day	901		343	once/week	24 hr. comp.	
**************************************	105/day	<i>5</i> 01		343	Office/ week	24 m. comp.	
Oil and Grease	mg/L	20		15	once/week	grab	
Temperature	$^{0}\mathrm{F}$	100^{0}			once/week	grab	
What Efficient Taxisites	0/	33.3			4	24 ha	
Whole Effluent Toxicity (WET)*** LC50	%	33.3			two/year	24 hr. comp.	
Outfall #002							
Flow	MGD	*		*	once/week	24 hr. estimate	
Biochemical Oxygen Demand ₅	mg/L	45	30		once/month	24 hr. comp.	
Total Suspended Solids	mg/L	45	30		once/month	24 hr. comp.	
pH – Units	SU	**		**	once/month	grab	
Fecal Coliform (April – October)	#/ 100 mL	200			once/month	grab	
Outfall #003							
Flow	MGD	*		*	once/weekday	24 hr.	
Settleable Solids	mL/L/hr	1.0		1.0	•	estimate	
					once/month	grab	
pH-Units	SU	**		**	once/month	grab	
					onee, monui	5140	

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A. EFFLUENT LIMITATIONS A	ND MONITO	RING REQUIR	EMENTS	1	PAGE NUMBER	4 of 9
, 				4	PERMIT NUMBI	ER MO-0000311
Outfall #005						
Flow	MGD	*		*	Once/month****	24 hr. estimate
Total Suspended Solids	mg/L	*		*	Once/month****	grab.
Settleable Solids	mI/L/hr	1.0	<u> </u>	1.0	Once/month****	grab
pH-Units	SU	**===		*	Once/month****	grab
Ammonia as N	mg/L	*		*	Once/month****	grab
Outfall #006						
**************************************	MGD	*		*	once/weekday	24 hr. estimate
Biochemical Oxygen Demand ₅	Ibs/day	277		103	once/week	24 hr. comp.
Total Suspended Solids	lbs/day	848		232	once/week	24 hr. comp.
pH – Units	SU	**		**	once/week	grab
Organic Nitrogen	lbs/day	71.4		38.2	once/week	24 hr. comp.
Ammonia as N	lbs/day	44		22.4	once/week once/week	24 hr. comp.
Organic Priority Pollutants	mg/L	***		***	once/week once/year	24 hr. comp. grab
Total Chromium	mg/L	*		*	once/year	grab
Total Copper	mg/L	*		*	once/year	grab
Total Lead	mg/L	*		*	once/year	grab
Total Nickel	mg/L	*		*	once/year	grab
Total Zinc	mg/L	*		*	once/year	grab
Total Cyanide	mg/L	*		*	once/year	grab

MONITORING REPORTS SHALL BE SUBMITTED MONTHLY; THE FIRST REPORT IS DUE October 28, 2006. THERE SHALL BE NO DISCHARGE OF FLOATING SOLIDS OR VISIBLE FOAM IN OTHER THAN TRACE AMOUNTS.

B. STANDARD CONDITIONS

IN ADDITION TO SPECIFIED CONDITIONS STATED HEREIN, THIS PERMIT IS SUBJECT TO THE ATTACHED <u>Parts I & III</u> STANDARD CONDITIONS DATED <u>October 1, 1980 and August 15, 1994</u>, AND HEREBY INCORPORATED AS THOUGH FULLY SET FORTH HEREIN.

MO 780-0010 (8/91)

- * Monitoring requirement only.
- ** pH is measured in pH units and is not to be averaged. The pH is limited to the range of 6.0-9.0 pH units. Since continuous monitoring of pH is required, the total time during which pH values are outside of the required range shall not exceed 7 hours and 26 minutes in any calendar month; and no individual excursion shall exceed 60 minutes at outfall 001 in accordance with 40 CFR §401.17.
- *** See Special Conditions
- **** While discharging

C. SPECIAL CONDITIONS

- 1. This permit may be reopened and modified, or alternatively revoked and reissued, to:
 - a) Comply with any applicable effluent standard or limitation issued or approved under Sections 301(b)(2)(C) and (D), 304(b)(2), and 307(a) (2) of the Clean Water Act, if the effluent standard or limitation so issued or approved:
 - (1) contains different conditions or is otherwise more stringent than any effluent limitation in the permit; or
 - (2) controls any pollutant not limited in the permit.
 - b) Incorporate new or modified effluent limitations or other conditions, if the result of a waste load allocation study, toxicity test or other information indicates changes are necessary to assure compliance with Missouri's Water Quality Standards.
 - c) Incorporate new or modified effluent limitations or other conditions if, as the result of a watershed analysis, a Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) limitation is developed for the receiving waters which are currently included in Missouri's list of waters of the state not fully achieving the state's water quality standards, also called the 303(d) list.

 The permit as modified or reissued under this paragraph shall also contain any other requirements of the Clean Water Act then applicable.
- 2. All outfalls must be clearly marked in the field.
- . Measure and report rainfall received at the facility on the monthly discharge monitoring reports.
- 4. Changes in Discharges of Toxic Substances

The permittee shall notify the Director as soon as it knows or has reason to believe:

- That any activity has occurred or will occur which would result in the discharge of any toxic pollutant which is not limited in the permit, if that discharge will exceed the highest of the following "notification levels:"
 - (1) One hundred micrograms per liter (100 μg/L);
 - (2) Two hundred micrograms per liter (200 µg/L) for acrolein and acrylonitrile; five hundred micrograms per liter (500 µg/L) for 2,5 dinitrophenol and for 2-methyl-4, 6-dinitrophenol; and one milligram per liter (1 mg/L) for antimony;
 - (3) Five (5) times the maximum concentration value reported for the pollutant in the permit application;
 - (4) The level established in Part A of the permit by the Director.
- b) That they have begun or expect to begin to use or manufacture as an intermediate or final product or byproduct any toxic pollutant, which was not reported in the permit application.
- 5. Report as no-discharge when a discharge does not occur during the report period.
- 6. Water Quality Standards
 - a) Discharges to waters of the state shall not cause a violation of water quality standards rule under 10 CSR 20-7.031, including both specific and general criteria.
 - b) General Criteria. The following general water quality criteria shall be applicable to all waters of the state at all times including mixing zones. No water contaminant, by itself or in combination with other substances, shall prevent the waters of the state from meeting the following conditions:
 - (1) Waters shall be free from substances in sufficient amounts to cause the formation of putrescent, unsightly or harmful bottom deposits or prevent full maintenance of beneficial uses;
 - (2) Waters shall be free from oil, scum and floating debris in sufficient amounts to be unsightly or prevent full maintenance of beneficial uses;
 - (3) Waters shall be free from substances in sufficient amounts to cause unsightly color or turbidity, offensive odor or prevent full maintenance of beneficial uses;
 - (4) Waters shall be free from substances or conditions in sufficient amounts to result in toxicity to human, animal or aquatic life;
 - (5) There shall be no significant human health hazard from incidental contact with the water;
 - (6) There shall be no acute toxicity to livestock or wildlife watering;
 - (7) Waters shall be free from physical, chemical or hydrologic changes that would impair the natural biological community;
 - (8) Waters shall be free from used tires, car bodies, appliances, demolition debris, used vehicles or equipment and solid waste as defined in Missouri's Solid Waste Law, section 260.200, RSMo, except as the use of such materials is specifically permitted pursuant to section 260.200-260.247.
- 7. Sludge and Biosolids Use For Domestic Wastewater Treatment Facilities
 - a) Permittee shall comply with the pollutant limitations, monitoring, reporting, and other requirements in accordance with the attached permit Standard Conditions.

b) If sludge is not removed by a contract hauler, permittee is authorized to land apply biosolids. Permit Standard Conditions, Part III shall apply to the land application of biosolids. Permittee shall notify the department at least 180 days prior to the planned removal of biosolids. The department may require submittal of a biosolids management plan for department review and approval as determined appropriate on a case-by-case basis.

8. Organic Priority Pollutants

Instead of monitoring, compliance with the limitations for the 126 priority pollutants may be determined by engineering calculations which demonstrate that the regulated pollutants are not detectable in the final discharge of Outfall #006 by the analytical methods in 40 CFR Part 136. This is allowed in Part 40 CFR 423.15(J)(3).

Coliform compliance

Coliform compliance is controlled by an ozone generator. Annual overhaul of equipment will be performed prior to the onset of the Coliform-monitoring season. In the event there is unanticipated down time due to power failure and equipment malfunction during the April 1 through October 31 that does not last longer than 24 hours shall not be subject to bypass additional Coliform monitoring, but shall be reported to the permitting authority.

10. Flow measurements during flood events

When the Mississippi River exceeds flood stage and flow measurement at the primary measuring device for outfall 001 is precluded due to flooding, the permittee shall make an acceptable estimate based on flow measurements taken at outfalls 006 and 008 (Dyno Nobel outfall) and analysis of a quantifiable parameter. The Permittee shall maintain record of estimates and the calculation work sheet.

11. Whole Effluent Toxicity (WET) tests shall be conducted as follows:

SUMMARY OF WET TESTING FOR THIS PERMIT						
OUTFALL	A.E.C. %	FREQUENCY	SAMPLE TYPE	QUARTER		
001	10%	Semi-Annually	24 hr. comp.	2 nd , 4 th		

a) Test Schedule and Follow-Up Requirements

- (1) Perform a MULTIPLE-dilution test in the months and at the frequency specified above. For tests which are successfully passed, submit test results USING THE DEPARTMENT'S WET TEST REPORT FORM #MO-780-1899 along with complete copies of the test reports as received from the laboratory, including copies of chain-of-custody forms within 30 calendar days of availability to the WATER PROTECTION PROGRAM, P.O. Box 176, Jefferson City, MO 65102. If the effluent passes the test, do not repeat the test until the next test period.
 - (a) For discharges of stormwater, samples shall be collected within three hours from when discharge first occurs.
 - (b) Samples submitted for analysis of stormwater discharges shall be collected as a grab.
 - (c) For discharges of non-stormwater, samples shall be collected only when precipitation has not occurred for a period of forty-eight hours prior to sample collection. In no event shall sample collection occur simultaneously with the occurrence of precipitation.
 - (d) A twenty-four hour composite sample shall be submitted for analysis of non-stormwater discharges.
 - (e) Upstream receiving water samples, where required, shall be collected upstream from any influence of the effluent where downstream flow is clearly evident.
 - (f) Samples submitted for analysis of upstream receiving water may be collected as either a grab or twenty-four-hour composite as appropriate to the nature of the discharge.
 - (g) Chemical and physical analysis of the upstream control and effluent sample shall occur immediately upon being received by the laboratory, prior to any manipulation of the effluent sample beyond preservation methods consistent with federal guidelines for WET testing that are required to stabilize the sample during shipping.
 - (h) Any and all chemical or physical analysis of the effluent sample performed in conjunction with the WET test shall be performed at the 100% Effluent concentration in addition to analyses performed upon any other effluent concentration.
 - (i) All chemical analyses included in the Missouri Department of Natural Resources WET test report form #MO-780-1899 shall be performed and results shall be recorded in the appropriate field of the report form.
 - (j) Where flow-weighted composite sample is required for analysis, the samples shall be composited at the laboratory where the test is to be performed.

- (k) Where in stream testing is required downstream from the discharge, sample collection shall occur immediately below the established Zone of Initial Dilution in conjunction with or immediately following a release or discharge.
- (1) Samples submitted for analysis of downstream receiving water may be collected as either a grab or twenty-four-hour composite as appropriate to the nature of the discharge.
- (m) All in-stream samples, including downstream samples, shall be tested for toxicity at the 100% concentration in addition to any other assigned AEC for in-stream samples.
- (2) All failing test results along with complete copies of the test reports as received from the laboratory, INCLUDING THOSE TESTS CONDUCTED UNDER CONDITION (3) BELOW, shall be reported to the WATER PROTECTION PROGRAM, P.O. Box 176, Jefferson City, MO 65102 within 14 calendar days of the availability of the results.
- (3) If the effluent fails the test, a multiple dilution test shall be performed within 30 calendar days and biweekly thereafter, until one of the following conditions are met:
 - (a) THREE CONSECUTIVE MULTIPLE-DILUTION TESTS PASS. No further tests need to be performed until next regularly scheduled test period.
 - (b) A TOTAL OF THREE MULTIPLE-DILUTION TESTS FAIL.
- (4) Failure of at least two multiple-dilution tests during any period of accelerated monitoring violates the permit narrative requirement for aquatic life protection.
- (5) The permittee shall submit a summary of all test results for the test series along with complete copies of the test reports as received from the laboratory to the WATER PROTECTION PROGRAM, P.O. Box 176, Jefferson City, MO 65102 within 14 calendar days of the third failed test.
- Additionally, the following shall apply upon failure of the third MULTIPLE DILUTION test: A toxicity identification evaluation (TIE) or toxicity reduction evaluation (TRE) is automatically triggered. The permittee shall contact THE WATER PROTECTION PROGRAM within 14 calendar days from availability of the test results to ascertain as to whether a TIE or TRE is appropriate. The permittee shall submit a plan for conducting a TIE or TRE to the WATER PROTECTION PROGRAM within 60 calendar days of the date of DNR's direction to perform either a TIE or TRE. This plan must be approved by DNR before the TIE or TRE is begun. A schedule for completing the TIE or TRE shall be established in the plan approval.
- (7) Upon DNR's approval, the TIE/TRE schedule may be modified if toxicity is intermittent during the TIE/TRE investigations. A revised WET test schedule may be established by DNR for this period.
- (8) If a previously completed TIE has clearly identified the cause of toxicity, additional TIEs will not be required as long as effluent characteristics remain essentially unchanged and the permittee is proceeding according to a DNR approved schedule to complete a TRE and reduce toxicity. Regularly scheduled WET testing as required in the permit, without the follow-up requirements, will be required during this period.
- (9) When WET test sampling is required to run over one DMR period, each DMR report shall contain A COPY OF THE DEPARTMENT'S WET TEST REPORT FORM THAT WAS generated during the reporting period.
- (10) Submit a concise summary in tabular format of all WET test results with the annual report.
- b) PASS/FAIL procedure and effluent limitations:
 - (1) To pass a multiple-dilution test:
 - FOR FACILITIES WITH A computed percent effluent at the edge of the zone of initial dilution, Allowable Effluent Concentration (AEC), OF 30% OR LESS THE AEC must be less than three-tenths (0.3) of the LC₅₀ concentration for the most sensitive of the test organisms; **OR**,
 - (b) FOR FACILITIES WITH AN AEC GREATER THAN 30% THE LC50 CONCENTRATION MUST BE GREATER THAN 100%; AND,
 - (2) all EFFLUENT CONCENTRATIONS equal to or LESS THAN the AEC must be nontoxic. MORTALITY OBSERVED IN ALL EFFLUENT CONCENTRATIONS EQUAL TO OR LESS THAN THE AEC SHALL NOT BE SIGNIFICANTLY DIFFERENT (AT THE 95% CONFIDENCE LEVEL; P = 0.05) THAN THAT OBSERVED IN THE UPSTREAM RECEIVING-WATER CONTROL SAMPLE.

WHERE UPSTREAM RECEIVING WATER IS NOT AVAILABLE MORTALITY OBSERVED IN THE AEC TEST CONCENTRATION SHALL NOT BE SIGNIFICANTLY DIFFERENT (AT THE 95% CONFIDENCE LEVEL; P = 0.05) THAN THAT OBSERVED IN THE LABORATORY CONTROL. THE APPROPRIATE STATISTICAL TESTS OF SIGNIFICANCE SHALL BE CONSISTENT WITH THE MOST CURRENT EDITION OF METHODS FOR MEASURING THE ACUTE TOXICITY OF EFFLUENTS AND RECEIVING WATERS TO FRESHWATER AND MARINE ORGANISMS OR OTHER FEDERAL GUIDELINES AS APPROPRIATE OR REQUIRED. FAILURE OF ONE MULTIPLE-DILUTION TEST MAY BE CONSIDERED AN EFFLUENT LIMIT VIOLATION.

c) Test Conditions

- (1) Test Type: Acute Static non-renewal
- (2) Test species: Ceriodaphnia dubia and Pimephales promelas (fathead minnow). Organisms used in WET testing shall come from cultures reared for the purpose of conducting toxicity tests and cultured in a manner consistent with the most current USEPA guidelines. All test animals shall be cultured as described in the most current edition of Methods for Measuring the Acute Toxicity of Effluents and Receiving Waters to Freshwater and Marine Organisms.
- (3) Test period: 48 hours at the "Acceptable Effluent Concentration" (AEC) specified above.
- (4) Upstream receiving stream water shall be used as dilution water. If upstream water is unavailable or if mortality in the upstream water exceeds 10%, "reconstituted" water will be used as dilution water. Procedures for generating reconstituted water will be supplied by the MDNR upon request.
- (5) Multiple-dilution tests will be run with:
 - (a) 100%, 50%, 25%, 12.5%, and 6.25% effluent, unless the AEC is less than 25% effluent, in which case dilutions will be 4 times the AEC, two times the AEC, AEC, 1/2 AEC and 1/4 AEC;
 - (b) 100% receiving-stream water (if available), collected upstream of the outfall at a point beyond any influence of the effluent; and
 - c) reconstituted water.
- 6) If reconstituted-water control mortality for a test species exceeds 10%, the entire test will be rerun.
- (7) If upstream control mortality exceeds 10%, the entire test will be rerun using reconstituted water as the dilutant.

SUMMARY OF TEST METHODOLOGY FOR WHOLE-EFFLUENT TOXICITY TESTS

Whole-effluent-toxicity test required in NPDES permits shall use the following test conditions when performing single or multiple dilution methods. Any future changes in methodology will be supplied to the permittee by the Missouri Department of Natural Resources (MDNR). Unless more stringent methods are specified by the DNR, the procedures shall be consistent with the most current edition of Methods for Measuring the Acute Toxicity of Effluents and Receiving Waters to Freshwater and Marine Organisms,

Test conditions for Ceriodaphnia dubia:

Test duration:

25 ± 1°C Temperatures shall not deviate by more than 3°C Temperature:

during the test.

Ambient laboratory illumination Light Quality:

Photoperiod: 16 h light, 8 h dark Size of test vessel: 30 mL (minimum) Volume of test solution: 15 mL (minimum)

Age of test organisms: <24 h old

No. of animals/test vessel: 5 No. of replicates/concentration: 4

No. of organisms/concentration: 20 (minimum)

Feeding regime: None (feed prior to test)

Aeration: None

Dilution water: Upstream receiving water; if no upstream flow, synthetic

water modified to reflect effluent hardness.

Pass/Fail (Statistically significant Mortality when compared Endpoint:

to upstream receiving water control or synthetic control if

upstream water was not available at p < 0.05)

90% or greater survival in controls Test acceptability criterion:

Test conditions for (Pimephales promelas):

Test duration: 48 h

Temperature: 25 ± 1 °C Temperatures shall not deviate by more than 3°C

during the test.

Ambient laboratory illumination Light Quality:

Photoperiod: 16 h light/8 h dark Size of test vessel: 250 mL (minimum) 200 mL (minimum) Volume of test solution: Age of test organisms: 1-14 days (all same age)

No. of animals/test vessel:

No. of replicates/concentration: 4 (minimum) single dilution method

> 2 (minimum) multiple dilution method 40 (minimum) single dilution method

No. of organisms/concentration: 20 (minimum) multiple dilution method

None (feed prior to test)

Feeding regime:

Aeration: None, unless DO concentration falls below 4.0 mg/L; rate

should not exceed 100 bubbles/min.

Upstream receiving water; if no upstream flow, synthetic Dilution water:

water modified to reflect effluent hardness.

Endpoint: Pass/Fail (Statistically significant Mortality when compared

to upstream receiving water control or synthetic control if

upstream water was not available at p< 0.05)

90% or greater survival in controls Test Acceptability criterion: